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## **Frequently Asked Questions about NASD**

### **How will this land be used in the future?**

The land transferred to the Puerto Rico Conservation Trust will be managed as natural and historical conservation areas. The land transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is now the **Vieques National Wildlife Refuge**. The land transferred to the Municipality of Vieques will be used for economic development and other purposes through the municipality's land use planning process.

### **Is there any remediation/cleanup required?**

Yes. Seventeen potentially contaminated areas were identified at the former Naval Ammunition Support Detachment Vieques that need further investigation and cleanup as necessary, as part of the Navy's Installation Restoration Program in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). Fourteen of the areas (or sites), totaling approximately 50 acres, are located on property that was transferred to the Municipality of Vieques. Three of the sites, totaling approximately 440 acres, are located on the property that was transferred to the Department of Interior.

### **If so, to what level?**

Cleanup levels for these sites have not yet been established. The Navy is working cooperatively with EPA Region II and the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board to conduct investigations and take cleanup actions as necessary under the remediation process stipulated in CERCLA. Clean-up levels will be determined for each site as appropriate following the CERCLA remediation process. The Navy has not yet reached the point in the remediation process at which cleanup levels are determined.

### **What is the time-line?**

Based on the information currently available for the sites and subject to funding availability, the Navy expects that investigations will be complete for all sites on Municipality of Vieques land by the end of 2004 and for the sites on Department of Interior land by the end of 2007. Further investigations may reveal site conditions that are more complex than those currently anticipated, which could result in a requirement for additional funding and time to complete restoration efforts. The Site Management Plan (see the Library page) provides a more detailed schedule.

### **Who is responsible?**

The Navy is responsible to remediate the potentially contaminated areas that have been identified at the former NASD Vieques property and has agreed to do so.

So far, the Navy has spent over \$3 million on the environmental investigation and has budgeted \$13.7 million from fiscal years 2002 to 2006. This funding is entirely separate from the \$40 million that was authorized by Congress for economic development on Vieques.

**What was the land used for by the Navy?**

The former NASD Vieques was used for ammunition storage by the Navy from the 1940's to 2000. The potentially contaminated sites on the former NASD property are primarily a result of the Navy's past operations and past waste disposal actions.

**What did the Navy and the various agencies agree to before the land transfer?**

The Navy has agreed to investigate and cleanup the 17 identified potentially contaminated sites in accordance with CERCLA under its Installation Restoration Program. The Navy has provided the deed covenants set forth in CERCLA Sections 120(h)(3) and 120(h)(4).